

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for examining adhesion of mutans streptococci to a surface of a tooth in a patient as a measure of [[a]] caries risk comprising identifying a the patient's genotype for a DRB1* in an HLA class II type gene; and comparing the identified genotype with a table, which has been determined beforehand, wherein the table correlates ~~a combination of two different genotypes or combinations of the same~~ genotype at the DRB1* locus and inhibition of the mutans streptococci to the surface of the tooth ~~earies risk~~, and wherein the ~~earies risk is derived~~ inhibition of the mutans streptococci to the surface of the tooth is determined with ~~from~~ an antibody titer of a secretory immunoglobulin A in human saliva against an antigen wherein the antigen is a synthetic protein consisting of an amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1, wherein if the identified genotype from the subject is a genotype correlating to a high mutans streptococci adhesion to the tooth relative to the genotype correlating low mutans streptococci adhesion to the tooth ~~earies risk~~ then the subject patient is at risk for developing caries.

Claims 2 and 3 (Cancelled).